

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



California
Department of
Health Services
SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

October 4, 2006

TO: FAMILY PACT PROVIDERS

SUBJECT: FAMILY PACT PROGRAM LETTER 06-04:
FAMILY PACT *CLINICAL PRACTICE ALERT*: INTIMATE
PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

The Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning Branch (MCAH/OFP) issues *Clinical Practice Alerts* to provide guidance to Family PACT (Planning, Access, Care, and Treatment) providers on current clinical issues. The enclosed *Alert* has been reviewed by the Family PACT Clinical Practice Committee and was developed through the use of widely accepted clinical practice recommendations that are referenced in the document. As October is *National Domestic Violence Month*, MCAH/OFP would like to make providers aware of the importance of screening all clients for IPV and to offer useful tools and resources to deliver this service.

This *Clinical Practice Alert* also provides an interpretation of Family PACT Program Standards. The standard for Education and Counseling ensures client-centered services that shall include:

- Individual client assessment, and ongoing re-assessment of the client's reproductive health education and counseling needs, including psychosocial issues, partner relationship and communication, asset recognition, risk-reduction, and decision-making.

The standard for Access to Care ensures that:

- Referrals to local resources shall be made available to clients when needed medical and psychosocial services are beyond the scope of the provider organization including, but not limited to, domestic violence and substance abuse related services.

Providers should refer to the Family PACT *Policies, Procedures, and Billing Instructions* manual for the complete text of the standards, official administrative practices, and billing information. For the purposes of this and other Family PACT *Clinical Practice Alerts*, the term "shall" indicates a program requirement while the term "should" is advisory and not required.

For information about *National Domestic Violence Awareness Month* and California's *Statewide Day of Awareness*, please visit California's Domestic Violence Web site at www.safenetwork.net. There you will find the "Domestic Violence Awareness Toolkit" which includes a downloadable poster for your office, a Domestic Violence Fact Sheet, and other resources for providers and clients.

Please share the enclosed *Clinical Practice Alert* with all clinicians providing services to Family PACT clients. Additional copies can be downloaded from our Web site at: www.familypact.org. If you have questions or comments, please contact Michael Policar M.D., M.P.H., Chair, Family PACT Clinical Practice Committee, at (916) 650-0414.

Thank you for participating in the Family PACT Program. We hope this *Clinical Practice Alert* will be useful to your practice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Weaver".

Laurie Weaver, Chief
Office of Family Planning

Enclosure